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# The Gladiolus

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by A. E. KUNDERD, Honorary Fellow National Horticultural Society



A. E. Kunderd at work

THE GLADIOLUS, as we know it today, easily takes a place in the front rank as one of the most useful and beautiful members of the floral kingdom. It is one of the most easily grown and universally adaptable of all flowers. In its stately majesty and beautiful tints and variety of color blendings it has few equals. In the garden its long season of bloom, together with its great variety of color, form and types, makes it one of the most striking and noble of all garden subjects, and in the hands of the floral artist it lends itself to all manner and kinds of floral arrangement. It is suitable for a wide range of floral uses and as a decorative subject has few if any equals.

Mathew Crawford once said, "It has few equals and no superiors. None are more beautiful and there is nothing in sight to supercede it." Few who have seen a beautiful collection of the newer varieties will dispute this claim. It is susceptible of great variation and improvements in the hands of the enthusiastic breeder of plants and there are yet many possibilities of still greater improvement in store for the future. It embraces many "species" of many varied types, and almost endless possible combinations and variety may yet be secured. There is really no end to the variety which can be attained and this is one of the charms of the dreamer and worker in this branch of the Horticultural World.

Among millions of new seedlings from carefully chosen parentage there will be thousands of beautiful new kinds, equal to most of the best in the lists of today, and yet each possessing a distinction and beauty all its own to the careful observer. It would seem as if every type and blending of colors might long since have been achieved, but such is not the case. "The most beautiful variety" has not yet been produced, perhaps never will be, else Evolution, in this field at least, were at an end. Change and improvement is Nature's Law and the climax in this direction will perhaps never be reached.

When we observe and admire a new variety, in beauty beyond our wildest hopes, we can rest assured that soon a new variety will appear, easily of equal beauty, and of a charm and color harmony at least equal to the best that has gone before, and of distinct and marked individuality. If majestic grandeur and stately beauty alone were required the Gladiolus might easily lay claim as the best representative for our National Flower, for where else could be found a more suitable subject to represent our majestic and wonderful young country.

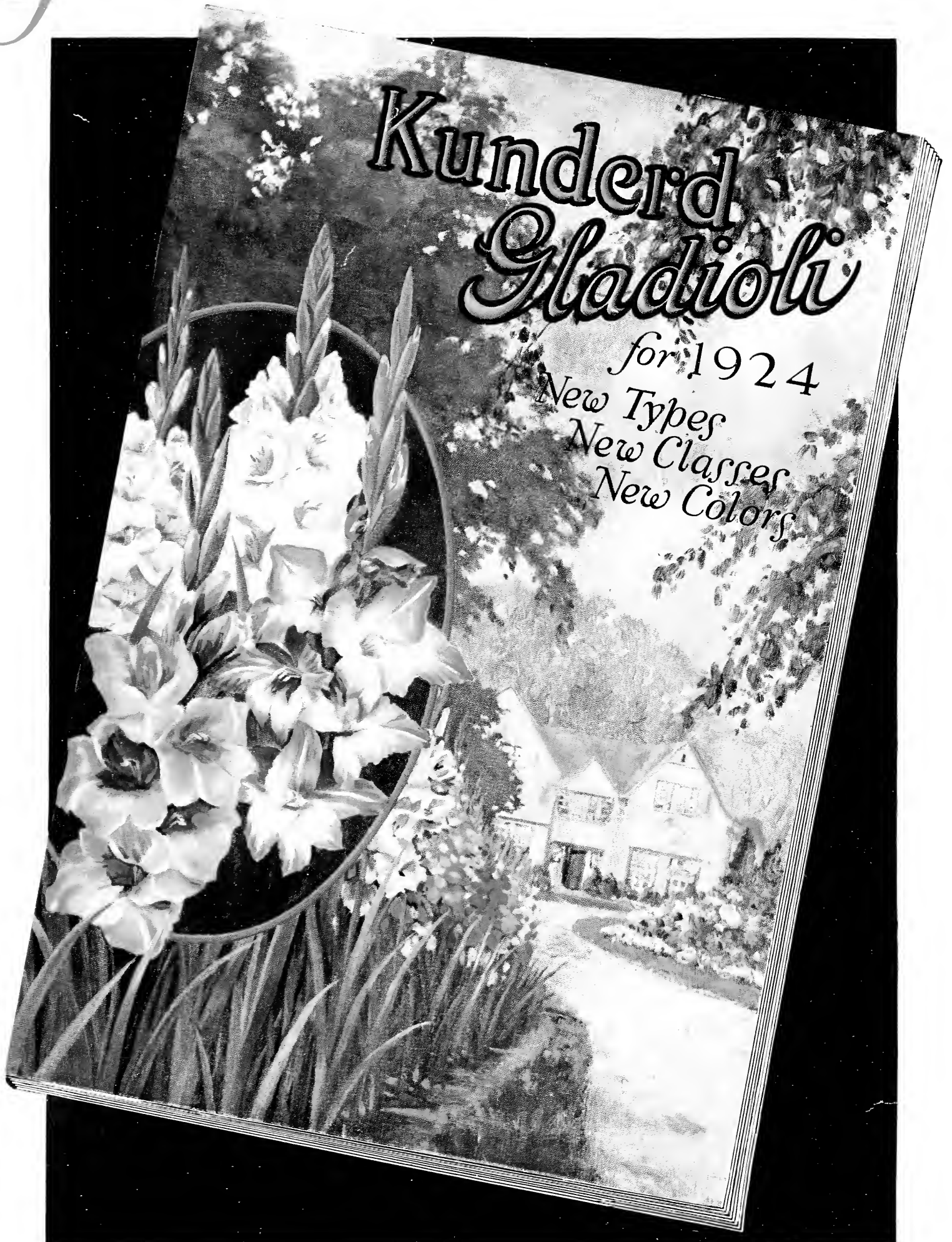
It is indeed to be regretted that the Gladiolus has no representative among its "species" in our own fair land, but what is lacking in this respect has been long since made good in another direction, the production and development of its offspring, for America is proud today of easily holding first place in the development and perfection of this wonderful flower, even though we must accord to other nations and their originators first place for having discovered and laid the foundation for this great development. When one considers that there are well over one hundred species of the Gladiolus, many of which are varied and useful to the breeder of this remarkable flower, it is easy to understand its endless possibilities of variety and improvement yet before us. Only intelligent, patient and careful selection is needed, and who will say that America is lacking in these requirements.

Let us not be content to confine our standards of beauty to any certain limits as to color or types, but let us strive to encompass every possible type and color combination. Beautiful self colors and magnificently blotched, like in pansies and orchids, so universally and much admired everywhere, should lend pleasures and joys to everyone in endless measure. Even rich and gaudy colors give joys to many, and why not when one considers the different tastes and changes of time and fashion and the eagerness with which we admire these charms in other flowers. Who among us can say this is the best, or that, when Nature furnishes us with such endless variety and beauty of type and color in such great abundance. Who can say this is the best, or most beautiful, for all of us when tastes differ so widely and "experts" fail to agree. The best and most beautiful variety is the one you most enjoy and which pleased you the most, be it red, white, pink, yellow or some other color or shade, self colored, or marked with beautiful orchid markings.

Then let us all enjoy, each in his or her own way, whatever of individual beauty we are enabled to perceive, disregarding all preconceived notions or standards. What is more restful and elevating than a beautiful garden, and what is more beautiful in any garden than an endless array of choice Gladioli. Some one has said that "the flowers of language are not equal to the language of flowers." Be this as it may, the flowers of language are dependent on the endless list of beautiful words. So let it be with the language of flowers, let it be an endless selection of beautiful varieties. Let us all enjoy the varieties now available, yet ever longing for other and new beauties to admire among one of Nature's marvelous floral creations, the beautiful Gladiolus.

A. E. Kunderd.

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## *Send for My New Catalog*

My new catalog for 1924 is now ready, and I would be pleased to send you a copy if you are interested and would like to have it. The book contains several articles of extreme value to persons interested in this most beautiful of all flowers, an extensive list of Kunderd Originations which are recognized as the greatest achievement in the improvement of this flower, together with my personal cultural instructions and many more fine illustrations both in colors and in black than ever before contained in my catalog.

I send this catalog without request to any one having sent me a Gladioli order during the past two seasons, but according to my records I find that no order has been received from you during this time. As I do not wish to send you the catalog unless you especially

desire to have it, I wish you would advise me on the enclosed post card if you wish to have a copy and I will be glad to send it to you at once. As this catalog is virtually a hand book on Gladioli and deserving of a place in your garden library, you can not afford to be without a copy. It costs you no more than just the request, as it is free.

I am sure your friends would also enjoy learning something about the wonderful new Kunderd Gladioli and therefore if you will give me their names and addresses (only persons interested in flower culture, please) I will truly appreciate your kindness. You will find sufficient room on the enclosed postal card for this purpose, in addition to sending for the catalog for yourself.

I am writing to let you know how pleased I was with the Gladioli Bulbs I ordered from you last spring. I had splendid success with them and want to plant on a larger scale next season. I attribute my success to the splendid instruction I got from your catalog.

MRS. A. A. YOUNGE,  
South Carolina

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